

SEP 24 1943

✓ * OCT 12 1943

Dr. Robert E. Speer's Message to India

The *Dnyanodaya* gives a message of Dr. Robert E. Speer to India. He was in Bombay on Christmas day, and at the Hume Memorial church spoke to a large congregation. We quote from that paper the substance of Dr. Speer's address :

East and West united by Christianity

Though Christmas is so different outwardly in India (said Dr. Speer) from what it is in his own American home where there is snow outside and a blazing fire inside, yet fundamentally Christmas is the same all over the world : since it represents the greatest *fact* in history, and the most uplifting *experience* of which men and women are capable. In this way the Christian faith triumphs over all the distance and difference between East and West. We learn, too,

that herein lies the very essence of Christianity in its combining of the historical and the spiritual. In this union of the facts of history and of the deep realities of personal heart experience, lies the deepest secret of the Christian religion ; and we can dispense neither with the facts nor with the experience ; for anyone who tries to go on without either will miss the real power Christ Jesus offers.

Christ's Coming, Historical and Spiritual

Jesus Christ came into the world : that is the first great historic fact on which Christianity is built. Christ's coming as a simple Babe is all important and must ever be insisted on : and all in India who would investigate the Christian religion must be made to face this historic fact. But equally important is the inward experience corresponding to this fact ; for Jesus Christ wants to come inside all our hearts and reign in our lives as King and Lord. The historic fact is wonderful, that *such a Guru* came ; but His coming into our hearts is much more wonderful.

Christ's Going by Way of the Cross and Open Grave

Jesus Christ went out of the world by way of the Cross and of the Open Grave. This is another *fact* which must ever be emphasized. That fact means that on the Cross He defeated and conquered sin, a conquest proved by His leaving the tomb and triumphing over death. And this marvellous fact is to have its correlative in personal experience. Christ seeks to conquer sin in each individual life; and every such life will then be marked by power and victory every day. The Cross and Open Grave are all-important in their message to India; but even more mighty will be the influence of those whose lives prove they have been delivered from the power of sin; for those lives will reveal the presence and beauty of the Living and ever-present Christ.

The Holy Spirit's Pentecostal Power

As Jesus came and as He went, so also *He sent His Holy Spirit as Helper, Guide and Sanctifier.* That is the *third tremendous fact*

of Christianity, a fact whose significance neither world nor Church has yet fully realized. For the fact is to have its counterpart in life and experience to-day. Jesus as the Spirit's power transformed Peter the Coward into Peter the Brave, so the same Pentecostal power will transform every one of us into Christlike men and women if we but yield ourselves up to Christ.

Jesus to Come Again

And Jesus will come again. This is the fourth wonderful fact on which the New Testament insists. In the assurance and hope of the Saviour's Second Coming lay a secret of joy and holiness of which we are to-day robbing ourselves. For this future *fact* will greatly enrich our present *experience*; if only we dwell upon it. 'This same Jesus,' said the angel in Acts i, 11, 'will come again.'

Published by 'Milton Stewart Evangelistic Funds.'
Copies in Hindi and English, for free distribution, may be had from Rev. J. J. Lucas, Allahabad.

Second Edition

C. L. S. PRESS, MADRAS—1922.